

FORESTRY MATTERS.

AN INTERESTING REPORT
BY A COMMISSIONER.Energetic Action is Urgently
Needed to Eradicate the
Prevalent Blight.

The following report is self-explanatory:

His Excellency J. A. KING, ex-officio President of the Bureau of Agriculture and Forestry:

SIR: Pursuant to instructions received from the Bureau of Agriculture and Forestry, at a meeting held on the 29th of March, 1893, directing your Commissioner to investigate the present condition of the forests and nurseries planted by and now being cared for by the Government. Your Commissioner has examined the same and begs to submit the following report:

The nursery on King street, comprising about three acres of land was first visited by your Commissioner, and after a careful examination I am of the opinion that the nursery as regards the quantity and quality of the land is entirely inadequate to carry out the purposes of the act under which the Bureau was formed. Owing to the ravages of the blight now so prevalent in Honolulu many of the valuable trees are in poor condition and some have died, and no effort has been made up to the present time to rid the nursery of this destructive blight. Even the small plants growing in boxes are affected, and unless immediate action is taken much loss will ensue. A small amount of energy properly applied would have prevented much of the damage already done. The distribution of plants from the nursery to the different islands during the past five years has averaged a little over 5000 plants per annum, the island of Oahu getting a little over one-half the entire amount. The record kept by the gardener shows that the distribution of plants has not been fairly apportioned, some parties getting as many as from 200 to 300 plants at one time, and others as low as ten. This needs regulation and the attention of the Bureau is called to this matter. While there is no doubt but that the distribution of 25,000 plants during the past five years has been of great benefit and use to the country, it is quite apparent that this usefulness can be greatly extended. The country is in great need of many small and diversified industries, and these can be greatly stimulated by the Government bringing within the reach of the poorer classes a variety of economic plants that can be cultivated with success on these islands. To accomplish this purpose, new and more extensive facilities are required. The present nursery is entirely too small, the soil poor and the location unfavorable. In winter the garden is flooded, and some valuable trees have been lost from this cause. In summer the water supply is not sufficient to keep the nursery in good condition. The trees now in the nursery are generally unthrifty, and do not present the vigorous growth characteristic of trees grown in a rich soil. A new site for a Government nursery is urgently needed, and your Commissioner would ask to be allowed to make a careful survey of the Government land on the lower slope of Punchbowl, running towards the Lunalilo Home, and report on the same as to its suitability for a Government nursery.

THE MAKIKI FOREST.

The planting of this forest was commenced eleven years since, and a considerable area has been planted with different varieties of forest trees, principally eucalyptus, which is doing well. The Australian wattle is a tree which is apparently doing better than any other of the forest trees. The keawe tree is not doing well, being more at home on the lower plains. All the trees are planted very closely together, and the time is near at hand when the whole forest will need thinning. There is a good deal of undergrowth in the forest, and on the edges the lantana is growing vigorously. While I do not think it advisable that the whole forest should be cleared of undergrowth until such time as the work of thinning should be undertaken, it is important that the lantana be cleared from the roadway and outskirts of the forest.

While it was no doubt a wise measure to clothe the bare slopes of the land with forest trees, and equally good policy to continue doing so, it is not good policy to plant the rich valleys with timber trees. They can be put to a much better use; they should be planted with the best varieties of citrus and other fruits, and with the various economic plants which add so much wealth to those countries that have a climate and soil similar to these islands. To this end I would strongly urge upon the Bureau to sanction the importation of several hundred suitable trees to be planted in the rich valleys situated below Tantalus, and from time to time, by further importations, increase the number of trees of the character mentioned in a very few years these would prove an excellent source from which to procure seedlings which could be started as soon as the necessary seeds can be procured. Among the citrus fruits there are but few stocks more hardy than our own native orange but the fruit itself can be greatly improved. In a few years time these valleys could be made to produce hundreds of thousands of valuable young trees for distribution to the different islands of the group and particularly to the home-land and small land holders. It is a significant fact that California oranges and limes (probably Mexican) are being imported into this country. This should not be. I would call your attention to the fact that the lantana in charge of the planting at Makiki forest, is living several miles from the scene of operations, in the only house under the control of

the Commission, the same being situated close to the Makiki reservoir. Arrangements should be at once made for the erection of a suitable dwelling close to the present laborers' quarters at the head of the forest. It is necessary, in order to get the best results from the force employed, that the Luna live close to the work. In this respect I would call the attention of the Bureau to the fact that the present Luna is not a trained forester, and that in order to obtain effective results it is advisable that a person trained in tree culture be employed to take charge of the tree planting at Makiki.

Appended hereto is a statement of the present cost of the nursery at King street and of the amount of the forest work at Makiki:

THE BLIGHT.

The attention of your Commissioner has been forcibly drawn to the blight which is devastating, and in many instances completely killing the citrus fruit trees in and around the city of Honolulu. This blight is easily mistaken by many persons (especially when not closely examined) for the cottony cushion scale, and unlike that pest there is (unfortunately) no insect enemy known that will destroy it.

Energetic action is urgently needed to eradicate this blight, and to this end I would propose that your Commissioner be instructed to at once commence the manufacture of a solution that has already been tried with good results in killing this blight, and furnish the same at cost to those persons who wish to spray their own trees. Also, that a number of spraying outfits be purchased, and men instructed in their use and hired out at cost to any person wishing to have their trees cleared of blight, to render action against the blight effective. Legislative action is needed allowing any person who goes to the trouble of clearing his own trees of blight to compel his neighbors on either side of his premises to have their trees cleared from blight, they in turn having the same power over their next neighbors. It is only by some such means that the blight can be got rid of, as one tree infected by blight will keep infecting contiguous trees no matter how often they are cleaned. Your Commissioner would respectfully recommend that the Bureau have a bill drafted embracing the provisions mentioned, and request the Government to introduce the same to the Advisory Council for their consideration. Respectfully submitted,

J. MARSDEN,
Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry.

AT NORTH KOHALA.

An Annexation Club Formed at
That Place.

On the evening of March 31st a most enthusiastic mass meeting was held in the Court House at Kapaau to consider the question of annexation, and the North Kohala Annexation Club was formed.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. John Hind, who briefly stated the object of the meeting. Mr. Jas. Renton, Sr., was called to the chair and Mr. J. Barnett was appointed secretary.

The meeting then proceeded to the formation of an annexation club and elected the following officers:

President—Jas. Renton, Sr.
Vice-Presidents—Kahookano, F. Northrop, H. L. Holstein.
Treasurer—John Hind.
Secretary—J. Barnett.
Executive Committee—W. P. McDougall, Robert Hind, Jr., M. H. Perry.

Enrollment Committee—George P. Tuttle, J. Williams, Eben Low, J. Osorio, M. Moedenbauer, J. De Mello. After the various offices had been filled there were impromptu speeches from the president and Messrs. Kahookano, Ostrom, Barnett and De Mello, besides an inspiring letter from Mr. Holstein, who was unavoidably absent. Before adjourning, the president called the attention of the large audience to the fact that we were not working for a foreign power, but were working for the interests of Hawaii and Hawaiian citizens. He called for three hearty cheers for Hawaii which were given with great enthusiasm.

Mr. E. C. Bond interpreted for Hawaiians and Mr. Osorio for the Portuguese to the satisfaction of all. There is cheering evidence that men are calmly and dispassionately considering the question of annexation in all its bearings, and are slowly but surely taking a decided stand on the bed rock of annexation. It is to men's credit, that petty differences of opinion are being allowed to sink out of sight, and they are boldly facing the simple question of annexation. The pendulum of the opposition has swung to its full limit and the whole nation is poised ready to swing back with gathering momentum towards the side of national progress and business security.

Large lists of annexationists are being secured already, though the work has only just begun. Signatures are being obtained that a month ago, there seemed no hope of getting; and the work is in the hands of enthusiastic men who will have earned the gratitude of the nation when their work has been accomplished.

Kona, April 3, 1893.

My wife was confined to her bed for over two months with a very severe attack of rheumatism. We could get nothing that would afford her any relief and as a last resort gave Chamberlain's Pain Balm a trial. To our great surprise she began to improve after the first application, and by using it regularly she was soon able to get up and attend to her house work. E. H. Johnson, of C. J. Kuntson & Co., Kensington, Minn., 50 cent bottles for sale by all dealers. BENSON, SMITH & Co., agents for the Hawaiian Islands.

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OPIUM STOLEN.

THE POLICE STATION IS
ROBBED OF 206 TINS.

(From Monday's Daily.)

Marshal Hitchcock will return from Hawaii to-morrow, after a week's absence. He will learn of the withdrawal of the American flag, and in addition he will also learn that he has been harboring some thieves in the Station House. By some mysterious means, about 206 half-pound tins of Hong Kong opium have walked out from a locked cell. Where the drug went to nobody seems to know. This is not the first instance of the sudden disappearance of opium by any means, but heretofore it has been turned into bricks or poi and tar. This time it has walked off and no substitute was left.

The theft was discovered on last Saturday by Mr. C. B. Reynolds, the executive officer of the Board of Health. Under the new law which he reorganized, the Board of Health all seized opium is turned over to the Board. On the 8th of March, 1977 tins of the drug were transferred to Mr. Reynolds.

The opium was kept in a cell at the station house until such time as it could be disposed of. A Yale lock was placed on the door of the cell as a precaution. Mr. Reynolds did not go near the station house until Monday, Mar. 27. He called on that day to add nine more tins of the drug which had been captured meanwhile by Marshal Hitchcock. On that day everything was all right. The next time Mr. Reynolds appeared at the station house was on last Saturday. He was sent for to open the cell as it contained a number of muskets which the authorities were anxious to get hold of. He tried his key in the lock but he soon discovered that the lock had been changed by some one. The door was finally forced open and after an account of stock was taken it was found that 206 tins of opium had been stolen.

The police are reticent about the theft but it is learned that two men are suspected. One of them is now on the force and the other was recently dismissed. It is thought that the opium was taken out through the front door of the building. By taking it out in that way, the clerk at the station, who is considered a very reliable man, would know nothing about the removal.

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